

## CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST RESEARCH DIRECTOR OF THE VREF INITIATIVE FINANCING URBAN ACCESS

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. **Q: There are a few minor inconsistencies between the Call text and the Road Map. How should I understand that?**

A: The Call text is dominating the Road map in these cases. The Road Map is advisory to VREF and to the selected RD, but should not be understood as prescriptive for the FUA research project. The selected RD, when preparing the full project proposal, will be free to deviate to some extent from the Road Map.

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2. **Q: Is the Research Director expected to function as a regular employee of a University and to manage the funds allocated as a project through the University like the present Coe's?**

A: We are open to some flexibility in the set-up, and it does not have to be like a typical CoE, but according to the statutes of VREF, the host institution has to be a university. The Research Director should be the scientific/intellectual leader and have the overall responsibility for how the budget is allocated to projects and activities in general, whereas more fiscal and administrative coordination and management could be solved through another person, as long as the university is ready to give full mandate to the RD in scientific matters.

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3. **Q: Is the intent that this person will be working on this on a part time basis, or full time? In Sweden?**

A: We expect that the person would have a professional focus on the FUA initiative, and spend an absolute minimum of 50-60% of full time in her/his RD role. There is no preference as to where – geographically - the RD is officially located.

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4. **Q: Can you advise whether this is a funded position or whether the university host simply contributes their staff member to the position as an 'in-kind' contribution to VREF?**

A: The position will be supported through VREF funding of the FUA project

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5. **Q: There is no indication on budget for the 5 years research. Does it mean that the budget will be dependent upon the details/quality of the research program proposed by the RD ? Should the RD' proposal include a budget proposal?**

A: The VREF Board will take final decision on the budget for the Research in December 2014. The budget will to some extent depend on the details/quality of the research program proposed by the RD. Tentatively, the annual budget for the research will be in the range of 300 000 – 500 000 Euros. The RD Expression of Interest should not include a budget proposal.

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6. **Q: Four themes are indicated in the Road Map document. Are these a closed list, or can the RD candidate suggest different/additional issues/aspects?**

A: These themes are not a closed list. The selected RD will have the opportunity to revisit the themes.

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**7. Q: The eight papers referred in the text as commissioned by the ISB can be made available to RD candidates?**

A: The eight papers will be made available to RD candidates selected in the first step.

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**8. Q: The reference to young researchers is recurrent along the text. Does this mean that more mature researchers should be excluded from the outset?**

A: No, but we believe that young(er) researchers will be one of the key features of the initiative.

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**9. Q: What do you mean by "the word "young" should not be taken too literally is there a recommendation for any limit of age or experience?**

A: No, we do not wish to set any strict rules in this respect.

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**10. Q: Will the RD be involved in the selection of researchers or is this process running in parallel to the RD selection?**

A: The selected RD will have as one of the main tasks to recruit the project team.

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**11. Q: Will the RD be involved in the selection of cities, and members of advisory boards with practitioners? Some cities are referred in the road map document, is this already a decision taken? Also, an indication of 3 to 4 cities or regions (see page 16, road map) or 3 to 5 diverse cities (page 17 road map) is done in the roadmap and requires some clarification.**

A: The RD will be involved in the selection of advisory board members, and partner cities. The VREF has not taken any decision at all regarding the advisory board members, nor the partner cities. See A1 above.

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**12. Q: In the roadmap the description of the second phase is extremely prescriptive regarding the engagement of practitioners, the case base workshops, meetings between researchers and practitioners, etc. Should these details be considered as mandatory in the development of the proposal or does the RD have degrees of freedom in all aspects of the design of the research proposal?**

A: The RD will have degrees of freedom in the research design (see A1 above).

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**13. Q: Regarding the selection of the proposals (step 2), is there any defined list of criteria for the evaluation of the proposals? If positive, will this be informed in advance to the candidates?**

A: No, the VREF has not developed evaluation criteria. In case this will be done before the deadline for proposals, all selected candidates will be informed.

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**14. Q: Will the short list with RD candidates to be delivered by the Evaluation Group to the VREF Scientific Council be communicated to the RD candidates or made public?**

A: No, the VREF will not publish any information on the short list.

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